

March 12 - 1897

The regular monthly meeting which was postponed from March 5, on account of the proximity of the Inaugural Ceremonies, was held this date in the Chapter rooms.

Meeting called to order at 8.30 P.M.

Present - Messrs. Hill - Brown. Smithmeyer Stead, Donn. Von Merta, Cluss, Marsh. Sidden and Greene. Mr. Hill presiding

The applications of Messrs. Pely and Pyle for admission to the Chapter were favorably reported back by the committee on admissions.

The committee on "Art Federation" reported favorably Mr. Stead moved that the committee, Brown, Marshall and Donn, be continued as the representatives of the Chapter to arrange with the other art societies for the formation of the Fine Arts Federation of the District of Columbia. - Passed -

The Treasurer was authorized to credit Mr. Greene with dues for 1897 and 1898 he having by mistake paid \$3⁰⁰ instead of \$1⁰⁰ dues for 1896.

Mr. Cluss read a biography of the late Paul Schulze one of the charter members of the Washington Chapter.

Resolution of sympathy & condolence of the Chapter
for his family were unanimously passed.

Mr. Southmayr described his drawings and scheme
for the extension of the U.S. Capitol Building making
provision for the Library of Congress, Supreme Court etc.
Vote of thanks extended to Mr. Chas for his kindness
in preparing the paper on Mr. Schurz.

Meeting adjourned at 9.30 -

Edward Somers
Secretary

April 2^d 1897

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Chapter
A. S. A. was held in the Chapter room on the evening of
the 2^d - The President in the chair.

Present - Messrs: Brown, Didden, Hornblower
Marsh, Stead and Von Merta.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Reports from committees received.

Messrs. Pely and Pope unanimously elected, their

† Paul Schulze †

In acceding to your request for making some remarks on the life of our late fellow-member, Paul Schulze, I am pleased at a disadvantage, since with a profound reverence for biographies and object-lessons from the classic epochs of art in history, I am ~~am~~ wanted, in relation to our contemporaries, seldom to look back in the past and on pedigrees, but rather to look forward on the great future, with its opportunities before you. You do not want an abject panegyrics from me: a round outline of an active, busy life is appropriate, and in any good-natured critical remarks that may creep in, I aim, not to forget the Latin phrase:

De mortuis nil nisi bonum

(Concerning the dead, say only what is pleasant.)

Schulze was born, in the year 1828, at Breslau, the capital of Prussian Silesia, hence he was 69 years old when he passed away. He attended, and graduated at, the technical high school of his native city, and completed his art. training at Berlin and Vienna, while he filled positions in the offices of prominent architects. Participating in the political uprisings in Vienna in 1848, he was compelled to leave his native ^{land} and sought a refuge in the United States. In July 1849 he arrived in Boston, before long he ^{commenced} the practice of architecture on his own account. He was engaged in building operations for ^{many} leading citizens, and has designed and executed the chapel of Harvard College. These early ^{times}

times were trying for a young Architect, and in the year 1857 he was obliged through the stress of hard times, to remove to New-York, there to form a partnership with Architect Gildemeister, ^{with} then practiced in New-York. The leading work of the firm was the old Crystal-palace on 42nd Str., a very creditable, stately edifice, constructed, according to the then ruling canon, of unprotected iron work, bricks and wood work. It has been destroyed by a conflagration long ago.

Gildemeister thereafter returned to Germany, his native land. At the beginning of the war he was moved by the patriotic wave, joined the New-York Volunteers, served with credit as Engineer Officer on the staff of Gen. Blenker, and was mustered out in the year 1862, as a first Lieutenant.

After the end of his military service he worked up a patent which was to replace woodcuts. He proceeded to London and Paris, for the purpose of interesting men of means in his improvements.

He had no luck in this effort, though it is claimed that he had reached fine results.

Returning to this country he associated with Paul F. Schoen and practiced under the firm-name of Schulze and Schoen.

from 1865 to 1875. They designed and ~~erected many~~ residences and business buildings. The leading competitions of the period were participated in, and on several occasions rewarded with second and third honors.

The event

The event of the Times consisted of several succeeding competitions for designs of the N.Y. State-Capitol in Albany. On two of these occasions the firm received the first prizes, though in the end the work fell in other hands.

About the year 1868 a competition was started by the federal Government for designs of the N.Y. Post-Office. The firm took a hand in it. The outcome was that, instead of a direct award, 10 prominent N.Y. Architects, including Hunt, Renwick, Le Brun, ^{and} Schulze-Schwen, the designs of whom were decided to contain superior features, received prizes, and were commissioned to act in common, in working up a combination-design. Schulze was intrusted by the concerned Architects with the development and execution of the muddled problem, and received the compensation allowed by the Government for this novel scheme. The design, however, was remodelled under Super. Archit. Mullet, — not to any advantage, as is claimed by many competent judges and occupants of the building.

In the year 1869 Schulze, with others, founded "The palette", a society primarily composed of architects, painters and sculptors. I believe it was the first society of the kind in New York. Soon there sprang up a demand for admission of lay-members. Lawyers, physicians, professors, art-traders and others.

and others, such as are fond of talking about the fine arts, filled the ranks. There were monthly meetings, where problems of ^{the} arts and kindred sciences were discussed, and combined with exhibitions of architectural work, pictures, sketches of sculptors' work in Plaster of Paris, etc. The older architects of N. Y. were mostly members. About the year 1871 Schulze was Vice-President of the club, which in its prosperous time had a membership, exceeding 200, and was the popular, fashionable institution of the day. It subsequently declined and broke up about the year 1877.

In the year 1875 a partnership was formed by and between D. Schulze and W. G. Steinmetz, both of New York. A syndicate had just opened a competition for designs of a "Palace of Industry", the buildings of which were to extend over all the squares between 99th and 102nd Str. and between 3rd and 4th Ave, New York. The firm was victorious, but after ground had been broken, ^{unexpected} difficulties arose in securing safe titles for parts of the required ground, and the enterprise got wrecked. Law suits were instituted for obtaining an equitable settlement for services rendered, but probably nothing was recovered.

About His Times

About this time Schulze was again at work on his ~~old~~ schemes for ~~improvement~~ improvements in lithographing, etching, and printing.

This was outside and independent of his architectural practice. An extensive business was started on Liberty Str., which failed ingloriously, and was probably in part instrumental in his decision to change once more his sphere of activity.

Hence in the year

Hence,

In the year 1877 Schulze settled down in Washington City, and in April 1878 the partnership of Cluss and Schulze was formed,

It was dissolved again in June 1889. In the interval the firm was successful in the following competitions:

- Open competition for designs of Reconstructions of Pat. Off. & Int. Dep't buildings
- " " " " U. S. Grant's monument in New York.
- Closed competitions for designs and construction of the National Museum
- " " " " of reconstruction of the Smithsonian Bldg.
- " " " " of "The Portland" apartment building
- " " " " + the Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
- " " " " the monument commemorating National independence in the City of Mexico. +

I must add that for the New York Grant-monument the first prize was obtained, but the results went by default. Whilst engaged on extensive travels, the case was played in the hands of New-Yorkers, and changed from the form of a proud elevated monument with solemn sepulchral chamber and surrounding bells for visitors, to that of a large Memorial Hall for the breezy meetings of the ^{comrades} of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Further, as ^{it is} not generally understood, I state that J. C. Cady of New York, the architect of the Yale College Museums, and J. H. Windrim, the Arch't of the Phila. Museum of Natural History, were competitors in the National Museum case.

In the Exhibition

closed

In the Catholic University Competition the Board of Regents, of which Cardinal Gibbons is President, overruled the Committee on designs and plans, of which Archbishop Williams of Boston was Chairman, and hence our niggardly premiated designs over to an orthodox Catholic Archt who is alleged to be a close relative of the Archbishop of Cincinnati. Inclined to contest the case in Court, we ascertained that under the smart wording of the program we had no clear case.

In the year 1891. Sch. formed a partnership with Alb. Goerner which was dissolved again in 1894. The firm had a fair private practice and was successful in a closed competition for designs of the "Concordia" Lutheran Church in this city.

In April 1895. Sch's health was seriously impaired and, to recuperate, he made a visit to his son Henry, a skilled young Architect, practicing in San Francisco. In a favorable climate and under the tender care of his worthy son's family in Oakland, his health improved well, though slowly, until Christmas of 1896 he was laid up, seriously ill. Through the ministrations of the best local physicians he appeared to be fairly on the road to recovery, and indulged again in his pastimes - painting and smoking - after the first week of Jan^y 1897, a relapse occurred, he became drowsy, absent-minded, and soon lost consciousness. The physicians diagnosed the case as partial paralysis of the left side, and stated that a clot of blood had formed on the brain.

He died

He lingered until the 19th of Jan^y, when he passed quietly to his final ^{rest,} well earned ~~rest~~ without having recovered ~~any~~ consciousness. ~~at all~~. He was buried under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic, of which he was a member, and interred in the beautiful lot of theirs, in the Oak land cemetery.

Schulze's innate inclinations were towards arts and poetry. As long as he dwelled within those realms, he was in a congenial sphere, and generally on the right path, even when he was not at his best. — As an architect he had an incurable passion for competition work. He was fascinated by the possible glory, renown and plenty, attendant upon successful work in this line. Whenever the fantastical ignis fatuus of victory, in those mental and artistic contests, vanished in the air, and would have discouraged others, it did but harden his zeal for renewed efforts. — In routine practice he clung to the idea that the clients of an architect should acquiesce in his designs, as loyally as they swallow the medicines of their physicians, or believe in the opinions of their lawyers. — One of his idiosyncracies was that he had missed his vocation in not following the arts of painting in oil and in water-colors. — He was partial to portrait-painting, and occasionally produced a true and spirited likeness. — Lithographing, etching and engraving on steel-plate, were occasionally resorted to, as a variety needed for his ever active brain, which was apt to overstep due limits and ^{indulge}

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indulge in excesses. Having got interested in some art-work, he would often continue on it until the early hours of the morning, awake again with blood-shot eyes, and not stop all Sunday either.

He had a peculiarly constituted, ardent, ~~hot~~ temper. As a man he believed in, and acted upon Dr. Martin Luther's aphorism

„Wahr nicht lebt Wein, Weib und Gering
Der bleib in Noth sein Leben lang.“

In English: „He, who is not fond of wine, woman and song
Will still be a fool, though he lives long.“

At his advanced age you might have found him in his glory, presiding over the „Washington Sängerbund“, a social and glee-club, and doing homage to ^{the muses} „Euterpe, Thalia and Terpsichore, with the zeal of a young adept in the arts of singing, playing and dancing. — Having lately, by request of his son, announced the sad event to the „Sängerbund“, its President wrote to me, that „the club would forever honor the memory of their „President emeritus, who with rare devotion had lavished „his best efforts of several years upon the welfare and prosperity of the club.“

It appears never to have occurred to him, that, to be confirmed in the above directions, will not necessarily make a man wise, — and consequently he was too frequently kept in hot water.

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I have aimed, dispassionately to lay before you some of the incongruities of the enigmatical character of a man, who often estranged for life valued old friends, for no object or cause, — blindly following a fondness for contradicting, without being able, himself to bear the slightest contradiction.

I close, trusting that all of you will join me in wishing "Peace to his ashes".

I now move that our Secretary be requested to communicate our sympathies to the family of his son, Henry A. Schunk, Architect, 94. Flood Building, San Francisco, Cal.